

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

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P R 181524Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4629

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, IS

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI AGREEMENT - SEPT. 18

1. SUMMARY: SHARP ATTACKS ON U.S. BY KHADDAM AND COLUMNISTS
SIGNAL INTENSIFICATION OF SYRIAN OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT.
END SUMMARY.

2. DOMESTIC

SYRIAN SEMI-OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED TO SUPPORT
BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND STATEMENT, AS REPORTED IN SEPT. 17-18
MEDIA.

3. FOREIGN

LEBANESE BAATH PARTY REPLIED TO SADAT'S COMMENTS DIRECTED
AGAINST BAATH AND REJECTED ACCUSATIONS OF USING PLO TO SYRIA'S
ADVANTAGE. ARAFAT ALSO REJECTED CHARGE AND STATED THAT "PLO DOES
NOT ACCEPT SUPERVISION FROM ANY QUARTER, A FACT WHICH SADAT KNOWS
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WELL." ASAD RECEIVED MUHAMAD SALIH YAHYAWI, ALGERIAN RCC MEMBER

AND WAR COLLEGE COMMAND WHO CARRIED MESSAGE FROM BOUMEDINNE WHICH WE ASSUME BORE ON SINAI ACCORD.

4. KHADDAM STATEMENT

IN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI PAPER AL-QABAS, PUBLISHED ON FRONT PAGE OF AL-BAATH, FONMIN VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED AGREEMENT ON FOLLOWING GROUNDS: AGREEMENT GIVES ISRAEL SECURE BORDERS WITHIN EGYPTIAN TERRITORY; PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH CANAL MARKS BEGINNING OF END FOR ARAB ECONOMIC EMBARGO; ARAB SOLIDARITY NOW PARALYZED; PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS WILL, IN EVENT OF WAR, LEAD TO MILITARY CLASH WITH U.S. NOT WITH ISRAEL; EGYPT RELEASING FALSE INFORMATION ABOUT TECHNICIANS, WHO IN FACT CANNOT BE REMOVED WITHOUT AMERICAN OR ISRAELI PERMISSION; WHILE "ARAB GOVERNMENTS STRUGGLING TO NEUTRALIZE AMERICA, TO REMOVE IT FROM CONFLICT BETWEEN ARABS AND ZIONISM, AGREEMENT RENDERS AMERICA DIRECT PARTY, AND THROUGH NEED FOR CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT U.S. DOMESTIC POLICY NOW INTRODUCED INTO DISPUTE."

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT

SEPT. 17 AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST CLAIMED THAT SINAI AGREEMENT LED TO END OF ISRAEL'S INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION AND TO SUCCESS OF AMERICAN CAMPAIGN TO KEEP ISRAEL WITHIN UN. ANOTHER AL-THAWRAH WRITER EXPRESSED INABILITY UNDERSTAND EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN AGREEMENT WHICH MAINTAINS ISRAELI OCCUPATION ON NINETY PER CENT OF OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN TERRITORY, FREEZES EGYPTIAN FRONT, INTRODUCES AMERICA AS DIRECT PARTY TO CONFLICT, AND ANAESTHETIZES SITUATION IN REGION.

6. SEPT. 18 AL-BAATH PUBLISHED OPEN LETTER TO SADAT FROM STAFF BRIG. MUHAMMAD AL-SHA'IR, PALESTINIAN OFFICER IN SYRIAN MILITARY, IN WHICH HE WARNED SADAT THAT SPLIT BETWEEN EGYPT ON ONE HAND AND SYRIA AND PLO ON OTHER EXISTS ONLY ON OFFICIAL, NOT PUPULAR LEVEL. AL-SHA'IR CHASTIZED SADAT FOR GRANTING "AMERICA, THE LEADER OF IMPERIALISM, MILITARY BASE FROM WHICH TO OBSERVE MOVEMENTS OF OUR ARAB ARMIES TO DISTANCE OF 2,500 KILOMETERS. THIS ESPIONAGE BASE, "HE ASSERTED", IS AIMED AT SEPARATING ARAB EAST FROM ITS WEST, REMOVING EGYPT FROM BATTLE AND PROTECTING ISRAEL. WORST OF ALL, IT IS A RETURN OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM TO OUR COUNTRY."

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7. FRONT PAGE AL-BAATH EDITORIAL HIT BACK AT SADAT'S RAMADAN SPEECH, ACCUSING HIM OF CONCENTRATING ON SYRIA AND BAATH PARTY INSTEAD OF "ZIONIST ENEMY." NOTING ALLON STATEMENT THAT AGREEMENT SERVES ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN AND U.S. INTERESTS EQUALLY, EDITORIAL ASKED HOW EGYPTIAN INTERESTS COULD BE RECONCILED WITH ISRAELI AND U.S. INTERESTS? EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZED AMERICAN PRESENCE AS "COMPULSORY PRESENCE IMPOSED BY FORCE AND APT TO EXPAND LIKE

CANCER." AL-BAATH COLUMNIST ACCUSED EGYPTIAN LEADERS OF REWARDING KILLERS (I.E., U.S.) OF OCT. WAR MARTYRS AND CALLED FOR "URGENT AND DECISIVE MEASURES AGAINST ALL AMERICAN INTERESTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ARAB NATION." HE ALSO DETAILED PAST "DEFEATIST POSITIONS OF EGYPTIAN COMMAND" DURING AND AFTER OCT. WAR.

8. AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST CHARGED THAT AGREEMENT PERMITTED ISRAEL TO "CASH IN" ON DOUBLE BONUS: FROM ARABS, SPLIT IN THEIR RANKS AND CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF THEIR TERRITORY; AND FROM U.S., ADDITIONAL BLACKMAIL FOR MONEY AND ARMS. HE SUGGESTED THAT PRES. FORD'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF WEAPONS TO ISRAEL MIGHT TEMPT ISRAEL INTO LAUNCHING "NEW AGGRESSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST ARAB STATES."

9. COMMENT: TODAY'S PRESS REACTION, MARKED BY FONMIN KHADDAM'S HARSH CRITICISM OF BOTH US AND SINAI ACCORD, HIT A SHRILLER NOTE THAN HERETOFORE, PROBABLY IN REACTION TO SADAT'S "REVELATIONS" IN HIS RAMADAN SPEECH.
MURPHY

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